Pending investment proposals

†1646. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around sixty two thousand investment proposals are pending with Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details of the amount of investment proposed for various projects; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in according sanction to these proposals, and the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY, PROMOTION AND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the extant industrial policy most manufacturing activities are exempt from industrial licensing/ approval. In the delicensed sector 69,113 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with proposed investment of Rs.25,03,928 crore were received during the period 01.08.1991 to 31.01.2007.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on Export of Iron Ore

1647. SHRI M.V.MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 83 million tonnes of iron ore, the country's precious wealth, is being exported to China and other countries, comprising more than one and half times the consumption in the country

(b) whether it is also a fact that China, which has large iron ore reserves for itself; is keeping them unexplored for meeting its future requirements, and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to ban export of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the year 2005-06, the export of iron ore from India was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

approximately 89.27 million tonnes which includes 74.13 million tonnes exported to China out of total production of 155 million tonnes. The domestic consumption during the same period was about 58 million tonnes leaving a balance of around 8 million tonnes as surplus.

(b) Despite domestic production of around 420 million tonnes, China had to import a quantity of about 275.2 million tonnes from various countries, including India, during the year 2005 (Source: UNCTAD) to meet its growing demand.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

Concern expressed by Singapore High Commission regarding SEZs

1648. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore High Commission has expressed its unhappiness about the uncertainty surrounding the future of SEZs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No such communication has been received from Singapore High Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of non bio-products

†1649. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of exported bio-products have been found to be non-bio products;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.